



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
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Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: AK111

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: University of Alaska – Fairbanks (UAF)
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
Location of Position: University of Alaska Fairbanks
PO Box 757500; Fairbanks, AK 99775
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice
Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☐ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area
Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☒ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)
Employer: _____ Position Title: _____
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☒ Food Safety
- ☒ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☒ Other: Teaching veterinary medical science courses and biomedical research at the university. Veterinary science education to students, veterinarians and outreach education to livestock producers across _____



the state, to include bio-security, infectious disease, emergency preparedness and response.

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objectives of this position will be: to teach university students, to provide outreach education Cooperative Extension Agents and practicing veterinarians, to provide outreach information to food animal producers (cattle, small ruminant, cervid and poultry producers), agricultural industry professionals and individuals involved with growing and processing animal products. These educational programs will focus on animal health, infectious and contagious disease, environmental health, veterinary public health, food safety, animal production and sustainability, and animal care and husbandry. A portion of the responsibilities of this position may be involved with veterinary research projects that relate to the unique challenges and climatic issues in Alaska.

Warming temperatures in the state has increased the introduction of invasive species (insect vectors, parasites) as well as an increase in certain animal and food borne diseases. This position will help prepared veterinary professionals (students, practitioners, animal health professionals) and producers to identify and diagnose morbidity and mortality events that impact animal and public health.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This position will be responsible to provide veterinary science education that will incorporate animal diagnostics, on-farm field investigations, applied research, curriculum development. Primary focus on classroom instruction for students enrolled in veterinary science and animal technician curriculum. There will also be some outreach education to serve Alaska's livestock producers and rural food animal veterinarians by improving animal health, bio-security, husbandry, food safety, farm profitability and product quality.

A significant portion of the time will be devoted to the development of curriculum and instruction of classes at University of Alaska as well as the extension campuses (Nome, Matanuska-Susitna, Aleutian and Southeast) and applied veterinary research. The outreach work associated with this position may involve travel to different regions of the state; from Nome (reindeer herds) and the Aleutian Islands to south-central (Matanuska-Susitna, Kenai Peninsula) and the southeast (Juneau, Ketchikan, Haines). The veterinarian in this position will provide critical support for Cooperative Extension Agents and practicing food animal veterinarians in rural areas throughout the state via site visits and electronic and telephonic communications (webinars, video conferencing).

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

The University of Alaska has been developing the Veterinary Science Department/Program over the last several years; UAF is the lead in Arctic studies and related animal health research. They now have several veterinary researchers on staff (veterinary toxicologist, veterinary pathologist, veterinary virologist, and veterinary infectious disease specialist) but no faculty veterinarian on staff that would be responsible for course development that would include student education, as well as support for outreach education and consultation to Cooperative Extension Agents, producers and livestock veterinarians.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

The agricultural community is dispersed across the diverse and vast expanse of the state from the Arctic regions of Nome, to the relatively flat interior with its temperature extremes (80 to 90 F in the summer to -40 in the mid winter), to the coastal regions of Aleutian Islands and the Southeast panhandle. This position will be one of the key positions in the education of students and animal health professionals, as well as, continued support of agriculture in Alaska. The Arctic environment provides unique challenges to producing feed and raising livestock and many livestock operations are located in remote locations across the 586,400 square miles of Alaska. UAF does provide some outreach to producers but the staff is limited. The reindeer program in Nome is providing some support for the Kawerak Reindeer Herders, as they try to adjust to ecosystem changes that are impacting the free ranging herds. The reindeer industry is attempting to expand and develop a market for reindeer meat across the state and to interstate and international markets.

Although there are a number of local agricultural crop and soil specialists, the Cooperative Extension service is limited to only one livestock specialist for the entire state. This severely limits any outreach to livestock producers. The dispersed nature of the agricultural operations across the state and the inevitable interaction with the large wildlife population (caribou, moose,

sheep and goats) poses a great need for bio-security, herd health management, and the need to develop local emergency preparedness and response since support from the main urban centers may take several days to respond.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a “service in emergency” agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the “Service in Emergency” agreement.

NIFA is not requesting information in support of this type of agreements at this time.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Robert F. Gerlach, VMD

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Dept of Environmental Conservation

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Telephone Number: (907) 375-8214
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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